

June 5, 1991

LB 843, 845

the roll. Please proceed, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: (Roll call vote taken. See page 2917 of the Legislative Journal.) 14 ayes, 29 nays.

PRESIDENT MOUL: The motion fails. I will raise the call.

CLERK: I have nothing further on 843, Madam President.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Raise the call.

CLERK: Madam President, the next bill, I believe, is LB 845. And Senator Chambers would move to override the Governor's line-item veto on LB 845.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Madam President, members of the Legislature, this relates to a relatively small amount of money which would make it possible for us to give our employees a merit increase. Now, an editor for the Lincoln Journal had told the Governor to veto this out, and the Governor followed those instructions. But in following those instructions he relied on some misinformation given by Mr. Herman, if he's the one who wrote the article, the editorial. I had stated on the floor, in response to some comments Senator Moore made, that our employees are not situated as are employees of other constitutional officers. Senator Moore had pointed out that in the same way ours can be fired at will by any senator, the heads of constitutional offices can fire their employees at will. I don't disagree with that. But the difference lies in the fact that there is no cap on the salary of individual off...employees in the offices of these constitutional officers. There is a cap on ours. If a constitutional officer chooses to allocate his or her money in such a way as to have ten employees and pay them the same amount, and then the following year decides to have nine employees, what went for the salary of that tenth one, or other money can be used to increase the salary of the remaining employees. That is not an alternative for us. Were I to have only one person working in my office, I could not pay that person any amount above a certain amount, even though I was not paying any other employee. So ours do have an absolutely unique status in government, and it is an insecure position. The amount of money is not great. The Governor did not veto anything in the bill that would affect the authorization for